WAS VERY STRANGE

The Romantic Career of a Belgian Mandarin.

His Story as Related by Himself to a Couple of American Tourists Whom He Entertains in

Royal Fashion. While the young American bicyclists, Messrs. Allen and Sachtleben, were crossing the desert of Gobi, they heard much of a mysterious and powerful official called the Ling Darin. No one could tell who or what he was. Finally, as they emerged from the desert, starved, ill and ragged, they were met by a richly-dressed mandarin, according to the story they tell in the Century. He greeted them cordially in tlear but broken English, and, mounted on waiting horses, they were at-tended into the city of Su-chou. "It was some time before the idea flashed scross our minds that this might indeed be the mysterious Ling Darin about whom we had heard so much. 'Yes,' said he, 'that is what I am called here, but my real name is Splingard." He then went on to tell us that he was a Belgian by birth; that he had traveled extensively through China, as the companion of Baron Richthofen, and had thus become so thoroughly acquainted with the country and its people that on his return to the coast he had been offered by the Chinese government the position of custom mandarin at Suthou, a position just then established for the levying of duty on the Russian goods par ing in through the north-

"We were so absorbed in this romantic history that we scarcely noticed the crowds that lined the streets leading to the Ling Darin's palace, until the boom of a cannon recalled us to pur situation. From the smile on the jolly face beside us we knew at once whom we could hold responsible for this reception. The palace gates were now thrown open by a host of servants, and in our rags and tatters we rolled at once from the hardships of the inhospitable desert into the lap of

and had even married, many years ago,

& Chinese girl educated at the Catholic

schools in Tientsin.

"A surplus is not always so easily disposed of as a deficit-at least we were inclined to think so in the case of our Su-chou diet. The Ling Darin's table, which, for the exceptional oceasion, was set in the foreign fashion with knives and forks, fairly teemed with abundance and variety. There was even butter, made from the milk of the Tibetan yak, and condensed milk for our coffee, the first we had tasted since leaving Turkey, more than a year before. The Ling Darin. informed us that a can of this milk, which he once presented to Chinese friends, had been mistaken for a face cosmetic, and was so used by the Indies of the family. The Ling Darin's wife we found an excellent and even artistic cook, while his buxom twin daughters could read and write their own language-a rare accomplishment for a Chinese worann.

"As guests of our highly respected and even venerated host, we were visited by nearly all the magistrates of the city. The Ling Darin was never before compelled to answer so many questions. In self-defense he was at last forced to get up a stereotyped speech to deliver on each social casion. The people, too, besieged the alace gates, and clamored for an ex- A San Francisco Angel Whose Pocket-Although our own clothes had been sent away to be bolled, we could not plead this as an excuse. The man mentioned with enthusiasm and been provided from the private wards gated on upper Broadway. New York, robe of the Ling Darin fluttered wildly in the breeze, as we rode out through the city at the appointed hour. Our Cleveland? Not much. Anybody you Chinese shoes, also, were constantly slipping off, and as we raised the foot to readjust them, a shout went up from the crowd for what they thought was a fancy touch in the way of riding."

Peaches from California? Yes, and from Michigan too. All made into de-licious shorteske with Dr. Price's Cream

A Brave Engineer.

During the recent strike in the cont regions, a Hocking Valley coal train was stopped by the strikers about a quarter of a mile from a wooden bridge. The leader of the strikers told the engineer that he must not pull the train through, and the engineer declared that he would. "Come down, Jim!" cried one of the strikers. "We know you too well to harm you. We have a keg of powder on that bridge, and when the boys see you coming they are going to light the fuse." "All right," replied the engineer, grimly. "I've promised to pull this train through, and through she goes." With these words he opened the throttle, and the train dashed on. The strikers saw the train coming and lit the fuse. On and over the bridge the train went; as the last car cleared the structure. bang! went the powder, and the bridge was blown to splinters. The fuse was a quarter-inch too long.

The Three Periods of Mun's Life. Lady Dufferin was closely related to roll and says to you: Sheridan Le Fanu, of whom Lord Dufferin tells a little story. When a little boy. Sheridan le Pann wrote an essay on the life of man, which ran as fol-"A man's life naturally divides itself into three parts-the first when he is planning and contriving all kinds of villainy and rascality; that is the period of youth and innocense. In the second, he is found putting in practice all the villainy and rascality he has contrived; that is the flower of manhood and prime of life. The third and last period is that when he is making his soul and preparing for another world; that is the period of dotage."

Changed His Tune. "Could you give a poor man a little assistance or find him some employ-

spot. I have a heap of wood yonder-" "Hum!-ah, yes. I'll send you the man directly. It's not for myself I am seeking a job, but for a friend of mine."-Leschalle.



MARINE CURRENTS.

New Instruments Showing How They Be

gin and Are Maintained. The marine globe, an "apparatus to produce currents similar to sea currents." consists of a glass globe, under the interior wall of which are constructed the massive outline of continents and the hollows of sea basins. The bottom of the sea consists of an interior sphere, concentric with the one of glass, moving on a vertical axis and worked by a gearing. The sea hasins are filled with water, containing particles of sterine in suspension, which render all its movements visible. The exterior of the apparatus does not differ much from that of a geographi-

When the movable globe turns upon itself, says the Cosmopolitan, the water is seen to start. From both extra-tropical regions it advances, along the sea bottom, toward the equator; there the two currents, from the north and from the south, meet, and together rise to the plane of the great circle; reaching the surface in a tream that occupies the equatorial belt of the oceans, the waters pour southward and northward of their line of emergence; then, almost immediately borne toward the west, they produce in their course all the secondary currents which are formed by the outlines of the shores and the shapes of the sea

Through the transparent glass one can follow the movements of the liquid mass and get a better idea of sea currents than from the finest map. For the best specimens of hydrography seem only dead-letter compared with west provinces; that he had adopted these real, moving currents, emerging, the Chinese dress and mode of living, advancing on the surface, then disappearing in the depths of these miniature oceans, the capacity of which is scarcely more than a few glasses of water.

This apparatus is both a useful plaything for children and an object of serious thought for students. Every young geographer in our primary schools would delight to follow with his eyes, on this little artificial world, the marvelous evolutions of the water of the oceans; every earnest investigator into the phenomena of nature would be surprised at the facts revealed by this simple instrument, and would perhaps be disposed to question the value of certain notions on the physics of the globe, which till now he has held without questioning.

The marine globe would facilitate the teaching of geography, so far as the sea currents are concerned, and the modifications these effect in climate, regardless of latitude; it may also aid navigation, and furnish hydrography with valuable data for the coordinating and completing of the experimental study of marine currents, their origin, their mutual relations, their temperature, their fauna, etc. Finally, it seems to me, it may promote the science of physics, because it is, as concerns the liquid element, the material demonstration of this hypothesis which led to its construction: "The liquid element enveloping the solid nucleus of the terrestrial globe, being set in motion by diurnal rotation, receives from this an impulse, which, modified by the outlines of continents, produces, in nearly all their details, the currents of the sea."

It was on the points of supreme excel-lence that Dr. Price's Baking Powder received the highest honors at the Colum-

received the highest honor bian and Midwinter Fairs.

ACTORS SWEAR BY HIM.

book Is Open to the Needy Thesplan. If you want to hear the name of any flowing Chinese garments which had reverence go among the actors congresome afternoon, says a writer in the Pittsburgh Dispatch. Grant? Oh, no. ever heard of before? Never a bit. It's John Rademaker. And who on earth is John Rademaker? you will wonder.

Just ask the first actor you meet. "Why, of course I know John Rademaker! He lives in 'Frisco, and is the best man who ever drew breath!"

But who is he and what does he do and what has he done? That is what you naturally want to know. Then con'll find out from two or three men at the same time that John Rademaker keeps a -big saloon in San Francisco and is an "angel." When an actor from the east gets stranded in San Francisco, or indeed anywhere on the Pacific coast, he goes straight to John Rademaker. It appears that John liademaker has an clastic and sympathetic auricular appendage that is always wide open to the reputable men in the profession who get stuck on the slippery slope. Those who have never been stranded two thousand miles from home, with an idle summer shead and ne bank account, will not be able to realize what such friendship means. Imagine yourself in London without a friend and without a cent, as some Americans are always to be found there, and you'll know what the sensation is to the actor left in Trisco at the close of the season. Then imagine

think you'll make this good when you're in better luck. I'll take my chances on you, anyhow. I'll just stake you for a trip home. Oh, that's all right-I don't want any paper-if you're not square your paper's no good. Now, what'll you have to drink?"

Couldn't Fool King Milan. King Milan of Servia once went to the hotel of a distinguished lady who was giving a bazar for the benefit of the poor children of Paris. As soon as the king appeared upon the scene she advanced toward him with a splendid silver salver in her hand on which was beautifully emblazoned the family ssistance or find him some employ-arms. On it lay a pretty little bunch of violets. "How much, madame?" "You can have some work on the asked the king. "Twenty-four lois, sire," was her soft response. Milan paid her the sum she had asked, with a courteous bow, took the salver from her hands, placed the bonquet in his buttonhole and walked off with the tray under his arm.

> Valued at five hundred dollars an onnee is a certain book in the British museum. It is a perfect copy of the original edition of Shakespeare's sonoriginal edition of Shakespeare's son-nets, published in 1609. There are only Real Estate and two copies in existence, and the second one is valued at five thousand dollars. As the book is only ten ounces in weight, it is worth a good deal more than its weight in wold.

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FARIES MACHINE WORKS.

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Photographers Supplies! A PHYSICIAN'S OPINION.

In Put a Sick Man's Family to a Great Beal of Ceeless Expense. "There are two things that I will never do again," said a physician the other day, "Commit myself by giving an opinion in regard to the death of a patient and advancing money to defray funeral expenses. I swore off on these two things years ago. When I first started I was so tender-hearted that every time I was asked by the auxious friends of a patient if I thought death imminent I always responded that the patient had a very slight chance to get well. I suppose most physicians err more in giving opinions as to death than any other. One case I had de-Everything Kept in a First termined me never to prognosticate death again. A member of a prominent Irish family was very sick with forenthought of the case. Without knowing the consequences, I told them he would die in twenty-four hours. The family sent for the priest, had him shaved and even ordered refreshments for the Dealer in all kinds of Plants, Bulbe wake. To my surprise the patient persisted in getting well, which so disappeinted his friends that they never forgave me, and never have sent for me since, thinking I did not understand

my business. Locuste in Madagascar.

Madagascar is visited every year with a plague of lucuets, which does a vact amount of damage to the crops; but It is an ill-wind that blows nobody good. and so these issuets are highly estermed as food by the natives. The termed as food by the natives. the ground, and, on the approach of a awarm, the people rush out of their huts and strike them down with flat usisets. Then the women and chilldres gather them up from the ground in sacks, where they are directed of wings and legaby a serere chaking up. These extremities are carefully winmowed out, the boiles dried in the sum or fried in fat, and then pucked in sacks for food or sold in the markets.

Exercise Enough. Rlinks-By the way, Winks, the doctor advised you to use dumb-bells, didn't he?

Winks-Yes, and I must see about getting a pair. Well, I have a pair you can have." "Tired of them?" "lies't need 'em. The twins are

teething -N. Y. Weekly. An Heirest That fortune teller must have thought I was up beired."

"Viky, dear?" "She said I was to marry a poet and

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